



Wildlands Update for December

General Recreation Notes

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which created or added millions of acres to parks, refuges and forests, was signed into law on December 2, 1980.

Current Snow Condition and Avalanche Information: There is currently not enough snow (18-30 inches depending on the area) for snowmachining on most public lands. For up-to-date information go to:

Nancy Lake and Denali State Parks:
<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/asp/nancydenali.htm>

Hatcher Pass:

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/asp/hatcherpass.htm>

Turnagain Pass/Girdwood Valley

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/glacier/advisory.html>

Holiday Tree Cutting information can be found at:

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/pic/christmastree.htm>

http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/news_releases/holiday_trees.html

[http://kenai.fws.gov/](http://kenai.fws.gov/VisitorsEducators/visiting/winter/christmas.htm)

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Firewood: For rules on gathering firewood, go to http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/news_releases/firewood.html for land within the Chugach National Forest or call (907) 269-8463 for locations on state land.

Please do not harass winter wildlife! View and photograph animals from a distance. Remember, the energy and fat these animals are forced to burn by being stressed could determine whether they survive the winter.

Aurora Activity: For daily projections and a 28-day forecast, please go to <http://www.gedds.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast>.

Construction and Road Closures:

The Denali Highway from Cantwell to Paxson is closed; the Taylor Highway is closed from the Alaska Highway Junction to Eagle at MP160. The Top of the World Highway is closed at U.S. Customs. For updated road conditions including internet camera views, visit <http://511.alaska.gov/> or dial 511 in Alaska; (866) 282-7577 outside Alaska.

Wildlife Wednesdays at the Anchorage Loussac Library's Marston Theater will be featuring "The Running of the Wolves" on December 6th @ 7:00pm.

Alaska State Parks

Public meetings for the newly established Knik River Public Use Area are planned for early December:

<http://www.knikriver.alaska.gov/>

Eight ice fishing huts are available for rent, four at Birch Lake near mile 305.5 Richardson Highway and four at Quartz Lake near mile 277.8 Richardson Highway. The huts measure 8x12 feet and have a wood burning stove and four fishing holes. They rent for \$15 per day and can be reserved on-line at www.alaskastateparks.org

Chugach State Park

Campgrounds are now closed. A 24-hour recorded message with status for snowmachining areas can be accessed at (907) 269-8400, extension "1" or go to <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>.

For general park updates, go to <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/units/chugach> or call (907) 345-5014.

Nancy Lake State Recreation Area

The gate at mile 2.2 of the Nancy Lake Parkway is closed to highway vehicles. The winter trailhead parking lot, Public Use Cabin lot, and the first 2.2 miles of Nancy Lake Parkway have been plowed. Ski conditions remain fair on the unplowed section of the parkway but marginal in the woods.

Hatcher Pass

The Nordic ski trails within the Independence Mine Bowl were groomed on 11/17/06 and are in excellent condition. No other trails in the Hatcher Pass Area have been groomed. There is fair to good sledding near the Independence Bowl Parking lot. Be careful of rock outcrops. Skiing is good on the Archangel Trail and fair out on the Gold Mint Trail.

Denali State Park

A new public use cabin will open for the Christmas Holidays at Byers Lake. There are 2 inches of snow on the ground at the highway level with 4 inches further north towards Little

Some good websites

Alaska outdoor information:
<http://www.nps.gov/aplic>

Alaska weather information:
<http://www.arh.noaa.gov/>

Alaska Volcano Observatory :
<http://www.avo.alaska.edu/>
Sunrise-Sunset:
<http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/>

Road Conditions:
<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/>

Coal Creek at mile 164 of the Parks Highway. For information, contact the Mat/Su Area Office at (907) 745-3975.

Kachemak Bay

A few water-taxis will continue to operate this winter and at least one yurt may remain open. Cabins will NOT be maintained on a regular basis. Call (907) 262-5581 or (907) 235-7024 for updates.

For more information about AK State Parks, call (907) 269-8400. Call (907) 745-3975 for Mat-Su State Park info or (907) 495-6273 for Nancy Lake Ranger Station. State Parks current events can be found at <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>

National Park Service

Kenai Fjords National Park

Exit Glacier road and the Exit Glacier Visitor Center are closed for the season. Willow Public Use Cabin, 7 miles from Box Canyon Gate, is available for rent for \$35 per night. Reservations can be made in person at Park Headquarters or by calling (907)224-7500. Stays are limited to three nights. There are concessionaires that provide winter tours by traditional dog sled throughout the park. Technical ice climbing is permitted on the glacier's terminus from November through March, although opportunities are very limited due to unstable ice conditions. For further park information call (907) 224-7500 or visit the website at <http://www.nps.gov/kefj>.

Denali National Park & Preserve

The Park will begin accepting reservations for the 2007 visitor on Friday, December 1. Reservations can be made online, by mail and fax. Phone reservations will begin on February 15, 2007. Visitors are welcome to stop at the Murie Science and Learning Center from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily. Park staff are offering 2-3 hour guided hikes, weather-permitting, on Saturdays and Sundays all winter. The Alaska Railroad heads north on Saturdays and south on Sundays only in the winter. The Murie Center will be closed on December 24 and 25 and December 31 and January 1. Riley Creek campground remains open,

but provides no services. For further information call (907) 683-2294 in Denali NP or (907) 733-2231 in Talkeetna or visit <http://www.nps.gov/dena>.

Wrangell-St Elias Park and Preserve

The McCarthy and Nabesna roads are in good condition, but weather can change quickly, so call ahead before attempting either of these roads. The Nabesna road is maintained year-round. Call (907) 822-5234 or visit www.nps.gov/wrst

Fish and Wildlife Service Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

The refuge offers 13 public use cabins, cross-country skiing, and tree-cutting. Winter visitor center hours are 8:00am-4:30pm on weekdays and 10:00am-5:00pm on weekends. For winter activity information including snowmachining areas visit <http://kenai.fws.gov/VisitorsEducators/visiting/winter/winter.htm>

National Forest Service Chugach National Forest

The Glacier Ranger District offers avalanche classes every Tuesday thru December 12. There are currently 10-12 inches of snow on the ground (as of 11/30). Walk-in camping is allowed at campgrounds, but no services are provided. Outhouses are available at the Begich-Boggs Visitor Center and Moose Flats year-round. The Nordic Ski Club train trips to Grandview are sold out! For more info, call the Glacier Ranger District (907) 783-3242 or the Seward Ranger District (907) 224-3374. For internet updates visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach>

For a listing of winter recreation guides operating in the forest, go to http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/lands/og_list.html

MatSu Borough

For winter trails and activities from Palmer to Talkeetna go to <http://www.matsugov.us/RecServices/ParksOutdoorRecreation-Winter.cfm>

Southcentral Visitor Centers Eagle River Nature Center

Located at mile 12 of Eagle River Road, ERNC is open Fridays & weekends, 10am-5pm. There is a \$5.00 parking

fee that is not covered by the Alaska State Parks day use pass. Call (907) 694-2108 for more information or visit <http://www.ernc.org>

Campbell Creek Science Center

The center is open Monday through Friday 7:30am-4pm. Fireside Chats are held on the third Wednesday and the Astronomy Series on the second Thursday of each month. For a calendar of events and further information, call (907) 267-1247 or check the website at <http://www.blm.gov/ak/events.html>

Begich-Boggs Visitor Center

will be closed during the winter due to lack of funding. Call (907) 783-2326 for more information or visit http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/chugach_pages/bbvc.html

Alaska Public Lands Information Center

The Downtown Anchorage location is open 10:00am-5:00pm weekdays during the winter; closed December 25 and January 1st. Stop by to enjoy the exhibits and movies or purchase a gift from the ANHA store. Call (907) 271-2737 or go to <http://www.nps.gov/aplic>

Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center

will be open noon to 5:00pm, December 20-23 and 26-30. Programs include Winter Birdwatching, Recycling Crafts, and other special holiday sessions. Admission and all programs are free. For more information call (907) 235-6961 or visit <http://www.islandsandocan.org/>

Alaska Public Lands Information Center

in downtown Fairbanks is open Tuesdays-Saturdays 10:00am-6:00pm; closed December 23-25 and December 30 – January 1. Call (907)456-0527 for more information or go to <http://www.nps.gov/aplic/fairSeasonalBrochureFall2006.pdf> for a program schedule.

The **Tok Center** location is open Monday to Friday 8:00am-4:30pm, closed on December 25 and January 1st. Call (907) 883-5667 for more information.

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